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VIEWS OF OTHERS

THE SILLY JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Elizabeth Gurley Flynn has become new national chairman of the American Communist party. To most Americans this means little except that the tired old hierarchy of that part of the party which operates in the open is fast running out of oldtimers to lead it.

But to some members of the John Birch society it must have important implications. To them it means that former President Eisenhower and a lot of other top men in the country have a new boss.

The John Birch society, a highly secretive organization, was founded by Robert Welch, a retired candy manufacturer. Welch is the autocrat of the society and his beliefs are set down in his book, "The Politician." It has been furtively handed about and kept from the public eye. The reason, apart from the society's insistence on secrecy, is that some of the book's charges are pretty libelous.

It contains such statements as this: "Milton Eisenhower is actually Dwight Eisenhower's superior and boss within the communist party." Allen Dulles, director of the central intelligence agency, is "the most protected and untouchable supporter of communism next to Eisenhower himself."

Grown men and women — many of them prominent — have been taken in by this kind of nonsense. They play their games with such inanities in the honest belief that they're building bastions against communism.

In recent weeks the John Birch society has been noted in national publications and has come in for some public discussion. This is good. The public spotlight is the surest and quickest way to show it up for what it is. —Milwaukee Journal